

194

Defeat and death of  
Pescennius Niger.

194-196 AD

Battle of BYZANTIUM I (Civil Wars of the  
Roman Empire)

When Emperor PUBLICUS HELVIUS PERTINAX was assassinated in 193 AD, a rich senator, DIDIUS JULIANUS, claimed the throne. But the real struggle for rule came from three military commanders - CLODIUS ALBINUS of BRITAIN, Septimius Severus of PANNONIA, and PESCAEANIUS NIGER of EGYPT. SEVERUS, nearest to Rome, marched on the capital and assumed the title of emperor. Julianus was killed.

Severus turned to the East to attack the legions of NIGER. He blockaded a large enemy force in BYZANTIUM in 194. The remainder of NIGER'S

troops were attacked and driven out of CYZICUS,  
NICAEA, and ISSUS in Asia Minor. NIGER himself  
was captured south of Issus at the CILICIAN GATES  
and beheaded. SEVERUS then concentrated on the  
siege of Byzantium. In the spring of 196 his  
forces stormed into the city and thoroughly  
racked it. With the East under firm control,  
SEVERUS hurried back to Rome to challenge  
ALBINUS, who had been building a rival  
force in Gaul.

194

DURANT

Montanus; Clement of Alexandria

19C1

Servius recognizes Albinus  
as Caesar but marches against  
Pescennius.

Defeat and death of Pescennius.  
His followers hold out two years  
at Byzantium